



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

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May 13, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO  
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR COUNTY  
EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO FUND THE  
VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS  
GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to submit a grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, in the amount of \$421,000 to fund the Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the proposed project involves repairs, improvements, and the rehabilitation of historic resources in a manner consistent with applicable Secretary of Interior Standards for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Approve the request to submit a grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, in the amount of \$421,000 to partially fund the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept the grant funds, execute the agreement, conduct all negotiations, and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to submit a grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), in the amount of \$421,000 to partially fund the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project (Project).

The proposed Project is located at 1008 Elden Way in Beverly Hills. The scope of work will consist of general improvements to the property, including upgrading the main electrical service; installing a new separate electrical service and automated security driveway gate to the existing lower garage; installing new security lighting and security cameras throughout the facility; upgrading the heating and cooling systems to museum-grade quality for both the main house and the pool pavilion to improve preservation of historic artifacts, furnishings, and finishes; and repairing the existing swimming pool ceramic tiles and grout to restore the pool to its original condition.

The estimated total Project cost is \$1,402,000. Funding sources will be as follows: \$421,000 in County Excess Funds; \$233,000 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 proposition); \$248,000 from the Third Supervisorial District's net County cost; and \$500,000 from the Virginia Robinson Trust Fund.

In a related action on today's agenda, RPOSD recommends the allocation of \$421,000 in County Excess Funds for proposed Project.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Los Angeles County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The proposed Project will be partially funded with \$421,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District. Sufficient appropriation for the grant is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of RPOSD's Excess Funds Project Fund. In addition, the Third Supervisorial District's net County cost, the Virginia Robinson Trust Funds, and the 1992 Proposition Funds are available for the Project.

### **OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT**

The recommended actions allow the Department to apply for grant funding for the Project as described above. Additional operating costs may materialize from the Project provisions, but will be dependent on approval and award of the grants. The Department will re-evaluate the Project and identify any additional costs upon acceptance of grant funds, and address them in its New Facilities

request.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department has met this requirement.

County Counsel has approved this Board Letter as to form.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project, which consists of general improvements to the property, including upgrading the main electrical service; adding a new separate electrical service and new automated security driveway gate to the existing lower garage; adding new security lighting and security cameras throughout the facility; upgrading the heating and cooling systems for both the main house and the pool pavilion to museum grade quality to improve preservation of historic artifacts, furnishings, and finishes; and repairing the existing swimming pool ceramic tiles and grout to restore the pool to its original condition consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995; Weeks and Grimmer), is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (a), (b), and (d), 15302 (c), 15303 (d), and 15331 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c), (d), (e), and (m), 2(e), and 3(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G.

The proposed Project includes no expansion of an existing use, structures replaced will be located on the same site as existing structures and will have the same purpose and capacity, and the proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project records.

Upon the Board's approval of the Project, the Department of Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services at Virginia Robinson Gardens.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one adopted copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

5/13/2014

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:FP: lr

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors